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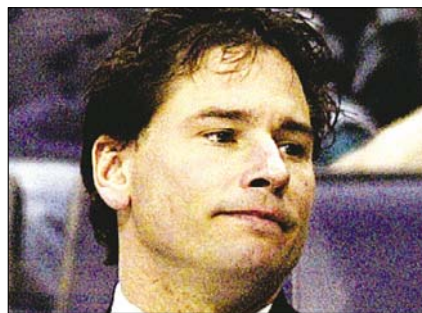
## Thursday

DECEMBER 11, 2003

**Drowned Kids:** Mother, boyfriend charged in deaths | **3**

**Fatal Error:** 6 children die in U.S. strike in Afghanistan | **5**

**Cassidy Canned:** Caps fire coach over lackluster season | **10**



Capitals coach Bruce Cassidy was replaced Wednesday by assistant coach Glen Hanlon.

Weekend  
**PASS**

### Alien Nation:

*Muppets* have landed. Plus, "Crowns" |

*Anonymous 4* |

*Placebo* | *WKYS*

*Ladies Lounge*  
and more.

>> **13-21**



**Weather > Showers, Sun**



**56 | 32**

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 22

### THE FLU | VOCAL OPPONENTS



**SHOOTING RANGE:** Robert Faulkner, 3, lets his mother know how it feels to get a flu shot, while his sister Ziya, background, gets one herself Wednesday in Lafayette, Ind. The intense flu outbreak in some Western states is drying up vaccine supplies. ♣ **Running low:** Local supply dwindles | Page 7

## Nixon Found Reagan 'Strange'

COLLEGE PARK, MD. | President Nixon didn't think much of Ronald Reagan, calling him "strange" and not "pleasant to be around," newly released White House tapes show.

Talking politics with White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman at Camp David in August 1972, Nixon switched the conversation to two Republican governors, Reagan of California and Nelson Rockefeller of New York.

"Reagan is not one that wears well," Nixon said.

"I know," Haldeman agreed.

"On a personal basis, Rockefeller is a

pretty nice guy," Nixon said. "Reagan on a personal basis is terrible. He just isn't pleasant to be around. ... Maybe he's different with others."

"No," Haldeman said.

"No, he's just an uncomfortable man to be around," Nixon said, "strange."

The conversations are part of the 240 hours of White House tape recordings from the Nixon administration released Wednesday by the National Archives. The tapes are the 10th batch of Nixon recordings that the Archives has released since 1980. JONATHAN D. SALANT (AP)

## Limits on Campaign Cash OK'd

High court upholds much of campaign finance law

WASHINGTON | A sharply divided Supreme Court upheld key features of the nation's new law intended to lessen the influence of money in politics, ruling Wednesday that the government may ban unlimited donations to political parties.

Those donations, called "soft money" and totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, had become a mainstay of modern political campaigns, used to rally voters to the polls and to pay for sharply worded television ads.

The court ruled in a 5-4 decision that Congress can regulate campaign money to prevent the real or perceived corruption of political candidates. That goal and most of the rules Congress drafted to meet it outweigh limitations on the free speech of candidates and others in politics, the majority said.

The law is often referred to as "McCain-Feingold" — named for its chief Senate sponsors, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russ Feingold, D-Wis.

The rules have been in force during the early stages of the 2004 elections for president and Congress. The high court ruling means those rules remain largely untouched as the political season heats up. ANNE GEARAN (AP)

♣ **Effect:** GOP stands to gain | Page 3



**BY THE NUMBERS:** Three national Democratic Party committees raised about \$246 million in soft money in the last election cycle, compared with \$250 million for their Republican counterparts.

**EDUCATION | Knitting Snit** Teachers in India's most populous state have been told to stop knitting in classrooms and pay more attention to their students. "They are often more interested in knitting than in teaching," Neera Yadav, the principal secretary of education for



Uttar Pradesh, said Wednesday. Officials said complaints from parent groups prompted the ban, which went into effect Nov. 26. Teachers have threatened to strike for the right to knit, but the government has not responded to those warnings. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2



# EyeOpeners



## ANIMAL WATCH

### Do I Make You Randy, Baby?

Turn down the lights and cue the Barry White — love is in the air at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo. Zoo officials flew in a female giant panda named Shuan Shuan from Mexico last week to mate with their panda, Ling-Ling. The two have met three times before on Shuan Shuan's home turf in Mexico City, but sparks didn't fly. If the two make a love connection this time, Shuan Shuan will stay in Japan until 2006 to watch over her offspring. If not, she'll return to Mexico next August. (EXPRESS)

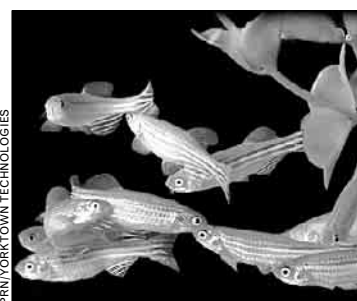
## LAW Redemption, Plus Interest

Former Iowa City, Iowa, restaurant owners Dave and Sharon McCaulley knew someone had been stealing from them decades ago, but they say the thefts had been long forgotten. That is, until this week when they received a letter containing five \$100 bills. "I'm a former employee that worked for you at the Villager Restaurant when I was a kid many years ago," the letter read. "I used to steal money from you. I figure that the money, plus interest, might add up to \$500, so that is what I have sent." (AP)

## HEARSAY | ROCK ON

"If you threw a rock at the foam, it'd bounce right off. This burned its way through it."

— HOME BUILDER BOB WEDDLE OF SHELBYVILLE, IND., ON A ROCK THOUGHT TO BE A METEORITE THAT HE FOUND EMBEDDED IN FOAM INSULATION AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE.



## PETS Glo a 'Go'

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says it sees no need to regulate a new kind of genetically engineered pet fish, despite worries from some environmental groups that the creatures might pose a health threat. Created in Singapore, the fish carry a gene from a sea coral that makes them shine fluorescent red, green and orange, Reuters reports. "Because tropical aquarium fish are not used for food purposes, they pose no threat to the food supply," the FDA said in a statement Tuesday. The fish are expected to go on sale in the U.S. next month. (EXPRESS)

## POLITICS A Chain and a Smile

The picture shows Sharon Smith, mayor of Houston, British Columbia, wearing nothing but a big smile and her ceremonial mayor's chain at town hall — but she's not smiling now that the image has gotten into public circulation. Smith, 48, said the picture was stolen from her home computer more than a month ago. "I'm disappointed that the stories seem to focus on what the pictures are instead of that it was a theft from my home," Smith said. (AP)

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS Dirty Sermon

A part-time priest has been charged with making obscene phone calls to a 70-year-old woman in Ormond Beach, Fla. Stanley Staniszewski, 60, who worked as a "helper" priest at several Catholic churches in the Diocese of Orlando, said the calls were made as "a joke" and that he was "under the influence of medication." A church official said Staniszewski has been asked to leave the diocese. (AP)

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## SHIPWRECK | SEARCH &amp; RESCUE



**BREAKING THE ICE:** Rescuers launch a boat on the Hudson River near the capsized cargo ship Stellamare to search for three missing crew members Wednesday at the Port of Albany in Albany, N.Y. The boat tipped on its side Tuesday after its cargo of 661 tons of steel turbines apparently shifted, tossing eight members of the 18-person crew overboard.

TIM ROSKE/AP

## Mom, Boyfriend Charged With Drowning Children

CLINTON, ILL. | A woman and her boyfriend were charged with first-degree murder Wednesday in the deaths of her three children, who drowned when their car plunged into a lake in September in what initially looked like a tragic accident. DeWitt County Sheriff Roger Massey said authorities know what the motive was, but he would not provide details.

The sheriff also would not say what the two did to make the car

slide off a boat ramp at Clinton Lake, killing the 6-year-old, 3-year-old and toddler inside, other than to say the car went in head first.

Maurice Lagrone Jr. and Amanda Hamm were each charged with nine counts of first-degree murder, Massey said.

The two suspects were on the lakeshore on Sept. 2 when rescuers arrived at the scene. Hamm cried hysterically as rescuers tried to free the children. (AP)



**BY THE NUMBERS:** President Bush outpaces his potential Democratic challengers by at least 15% in Virginia, according to a poll by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research released on Wednesday. (AP)

## Trial Set for Guantanamo Interpreter

WASHINGTON | The Air Force has set a tentative court-martial date for an Arabic interpreter accused of spying at the Guantanamo Bay prison for terrorism suspects.

Senior Airman Ahmad I. al-Halabi is scheduled for a court-martial on April 20, the Air Force said Wednesday. He is charged

with espionage, aiding the enemy and several lesser offenses in connection with his work at the Navy base in Cuba. Al-Halabi's lawyers say he is innocent.

The military judge in al-Halabi's case, Col. Barbara G. Brand, scheduled an arraignment for al-Halabi for Monday at Travis Air Force Base

in California, the Air Force said in a statement. Al-Halabi had been stationed at Travis before being sent to Guantanamo.

Agents arrested al-Halabi July 23 as he got off a flight from Guantanamo to Florida. He is accused of gathering and divulging secrets about the base, such as the names and cell numbers of prisoners and messages from the inmates. (AP)

# Campaign Ruling Likely to Help GOP

### Democrats may have trouble matching full Republican coffers

WASHINGTON | The Supreme Court's ruling largely supporting campaign finance regulations gives the Republicans, who raise far more in small donations, a big advantage in next year's elections for the White House and Congress.

Democrats will have to try to make up the difference through outside groups exempt from most of the new restrictions.

Several Democratic-leaning groups are already in action, raising millions in corporate, union and unlimited "soft money" donations that the national parties can no longer accept under the new law.

With an eye toward unseating President Bush, they plan to finance the get-out-the-vote drives and issue

**The money trail:** The campaign finance decision's wide-ranging effects | [washingtonpost.com/politics](http://washingtonpost.com/politics)

ads that their party has underwritten in the past with soft money checks.

Republican activists had largely waited to learn the law's fate while the GOP and Bush built a commanding advantage raising donations permitted under the law. With the justices' ruling, Republicans will aim to match the Democratic soft-money groups dollar-for-dollar.

SHARON THEIMER (AP)

### MONEY MATTERS

In its campaign finance ruling Wednesday, the Supreme Court:

- **Upheld** a rule prohibiting national political parties from raising unregulated "soft money" and a ban on the solicitation of soft money by federal candidates.
- **Supported** restrictions on election-time political ads by special-interest groups.
- **Overtaken** a rule prohibiting minors from contributing to national party efforts.

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## Nation

### Court Tosses Teen's Life Sentence

**Mental state of boy who killed playmate not assessed, judge says**

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. | An appeals court Wednesday threw out a boy's conviction for beating a 6-year-old playmate to death in a case that focused attention on a Florida law that says child murderers must be locked away for the rest of their lives.

The 4th District Court of Appeals ordered a new trial for Lionel Tate, 16, saying his mental competency should have been evaluated before

his trial. He was tried as an adult and is serving life without parole at a maximum-security juvenile prison.

"Questions regarding Tate's competency were not lurking subtly in



Tate

the background, but were readily apparent, as his immaturity and developmental delays were very much at the heart of the defense," Judge

Barry J. Stone wrote.

Defense lawyers argued that Tate, then 12, was imitating the pro wres-

tling moves he saw on television and did not mean to kill Tiffany Eunick. The 48-pound girl was punched, kicked and stomped to death by Tate, who weighed 170 pounds.

The case has raised questions about a Florida law requiring children convicted of first-degree murder to get life in prison without parole. Florida has been widely criticized for using the law to lock up children.

Broward County prosecutors said only that they are reviewing the ruling to determine whether to hold a new trial. Tate will remain behind bars in the meantime. JILL BARTON (AP)

### Schools Fear Sexual Overtones In Bracelet Fad

CHICAGO | Orange, red, blue, black — they're just thin, rubbery bracelets that come in a rainbow of colors, but they're causing quite a stir.

First made popular by Madonna and other pop stars in the 1980s, "jelly bracelets" are making a comeback with teens and some grade-school kids. But this time, there's a twist: In some parts of the country, they're calling them "sex bracelets" — with various colors supposedly representing promises to perform sex acts in a game called "Snap."

It's unclear whether young people are really following through with the sex acts. And some experts think many are hearing about the game from news reports, not each other. Regardless, a few schools in such states as Illinois, Ohio and Florida have banned the bracelets. (AP)

### BEAR HUNT | FRESH KILL



**BAGGED:** Bear-hunting opponents Barbara Happe-Van Blarcum, left, and Rob Comiskey look at and photograph a slain black bear Wednesday at Wawayanda State Park in Vernon, N.J. A controversial state-authorized six-day black bear hunt — the state's first in 33 years — began Monday.

### In Brief

#### CLEARWATER, FLA.

#### Court Declines to Remove Judge in Schiavo Case

An appeals court refused to remove the judge in the life-or-death case of a severely brain-damaged woman on Wednesday, rejecting Gov. Jeb Bush's claim the judge is biased. Terri Schiavo's husband is challenging the constitutionality of a law that allowed Bush to order her feeding tube reinserted after the husband had it removed. Bush's attorney,

Kenneth L. Connor, argued that Circuit Judge W. Douglas Baird already made up his mind, citing the judge's statements that the new law is "presumptively unconstitutional." But the appellate court said Baird's comments were not improper. (AP)

#### ATLANTA

#### Feds Say Study Shows Need For Truckers to Buckle Up

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta is pleading with the country's 11 million truckers to change their spotty seat belt habits, citing a new study that found 52 percent of them

don't buckle up. The study examined seat belt use among 3,909 truck drivers in 12 states during 2002. (AP)

#### PENSACOLA, FLA.

#### Millionaire College Donor Charged in Cocaine Case

Millionaire Charles Switzer was charged with drug trafficking in a state-federal investigation that also led to charges against about 40 other people. Switzer, a former Texaco executive, serves on Pensacola Junior College's Board of Governors and he and his family gave the college \$1 million in 1998. (AP)

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## World

## In Brief

## TAIWAN

**Taiwan Tells U.S. It Has No Plan to Seek Split From China**

Taiwan's president, Chen Shui-bian, assured Washington on Wednesday that he has no plans to provoke China by seeking a permanent split with the communist giant, responding to the sharpest rebuke from America since Chen took office three years ago. But Chen refused to back down on plans to hold a March 20 "defensive referendum" demanding that China remove hundreds of missiles pointing at Taiwan. (AP)

## ANTARCTICA

**Pilot, on Historic Mission, Runs Out of Gas at South Pole**

Australian pilot Jon Johanson left New Zealand on Sunday and became the first person to fly a home-built single-engine plane over the South Pole. He is now stranded in Antarctica, however, after his aircraft ran short of fuel — and U.S. and New Zealand bases there refused to supply any, a New Zealand official said Wednesday. (AP)

## RUSSIA

**Prospect of U.S. Forces Nearby Causes Concern**

A high-level U.S. diplomat assured Moscow on Wednesday that a military restructuring likely to bring U.S. forces closer to Russia's borders is not a threat. But Russia's defense minister expressed concern. "Any plans to bring the NATO infrastructure closer to our borders prompts an absolutely understandable, explicable concern," Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said, according to the Interfax news agency. (AP)

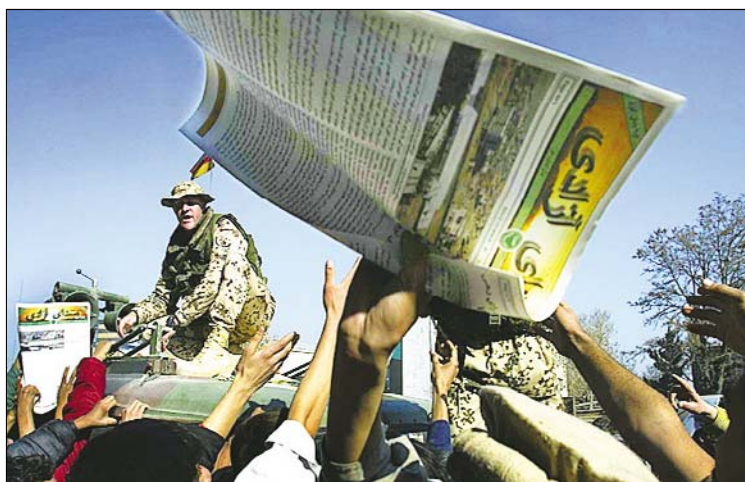
## SWITZERLAND

**Die-Hard Nationalist Wins Powerful Cabinet Seat**

A fervent nationalist won a seat Wednesday on the federal Cabinet — Switzerland's most powerful elected body. The election of Christoph Blocher may doom lingering hopes of Switzerland joining the European Union. Blocher led Swiss resistance to closer links with Europe, arguing it would be a fatal mistake for tiny Switzerland to cede its cherished independence to Brussels. (AP)



Blocher



B.K. BANGASH

Afghans in Kabul on Wednesday jostle for a copy of a newspaper published by the coalition's security force that has stories about Saturday's constitutional council. The council is considered a cornerstone event in the country's reconstruction.

## 6 Afghan Children Die in U.S. Strike

Tragic blunders have led to the deaths of 15 children in past week

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | For the second time in a week, the U.S. military admitted Wednesday that Afghan children were killed in attacks against Taliban and al Qaeda suspects.

A U.S. military spokesman said six children died when a wall fell on them Friday night at a complex in eastern Paktia province that had been attacked by U.S. warplanes and special forces. "We had no indication there were noncombatants" in the compound, Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty told reporters.

The news comes on the heels of a tragic U.S. military blunder in neighboring Ghazni province

on Saturday. Nine children were found dead in a field after an airstrike that was targeting a Taliban suspect. U.S. officials have since apologized for that incident.

"As well as contributing to a sense of fear and insecurity, these incidents make it easier for those who wish to spoil [the reconstruction] to rally support," a U.N. spokesman in Afghanistan said. (AP)

**KARZAI DIGS IN FOR FIGHT**

→ **President Hamid Karzai**

said Wednesday he would not seek re-election if an upcoming constitutional council adopts a parliamentary system that would weaken the power of the presidency. Karzai and his supporters say establishing a strong leader is vital in a country still being fought over by powerful warlords.

## 9 Slain as Fighting Returns to Liberia

MONROVIA, LIBERIA | Bodies of ex-government militiamen lay sprawled in the streets of Liberia's capital Wednesday as U.N. peacekeepers confronted gunmen on a rampage of burning, shooting and looting in Monrovia's bloodiest day since an August peace deal.

The violence, launched by militiamen loyal to ousted President Charles Taylor demanding cash to give up their guns, was the first serious threat to a U.N.-backed disarmament project. The fighting killed at least nine Liberians.

The fighting, after months of peace in the capital, posed a major challenge to the 4,500-strong U.N. peace force. The force is charged with helping oversee disarmament of the estimated 40,000 rebel and government fighters after 14 years of conflict. The government and rebels are trying to implement a peace deal reached after Taylor fled the country in August. (AP)



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## World

# U.S. Restricts Iraq Contracts

**Firms from countries that opposed war are shut out from bidding**

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM | Response from nations opposed to the Iraq war was swift and angry Wednesday to the U.S. order barring their firms from bidding for reconstruction projects.

Russia suggested it would not restructure Iraq's debt. Canada threatened to stop sending aid to Baghdad. The European Union said it would study whether global trade rules had been violated. Germany called the decision "unacceptable."

Critics said the policy could discourage countries from helping to rebuild Iraq and complicate American efforts to restructure Iraq's estimated \$125 billion debt, much of it owed to France, Germany, Russia and other nations whose companies are excluded under the Pentagon directive.

The White House defended the new policy, saying countries wanting a share of the \$18.6 billion in reconstruction contracts in the 2004 U.S. budget must participate militarily in the postwar effort. ROBERT REID (AP)

### DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ

#### → The Iraqi Governing

**Council** established a war-crimes tribunal to try members of Saddam Hussein's former regime.

#### → In Mosul, small arms fire

and a roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded four.

#### → Also in Mosul, residents

said U.S. troops shot and killed a senior officer of the paramilitary group Saddam Fedayeen after storming his house. The U.S. Army declined to comment. (AP)

**Live Online:** Rachel Bronson of the Council on Foreign Relations will discuss the security situation in Iraq | Today at 2 p.m. on [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline)

### CHINA | VOTING, WITH CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS



**BALLOT ACT:** A woman votes at a Beijing polling station. The city's residents took part in China's carefully controlled version of democracy Wednesday, voting on government-approved candidates for local legislative posts.

## Would-Be Bomber Arrested in Beirut

BEIRUT, LEBANON | A would-be suicide bomber was arrested outside the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon on Wednesday, Lebanese security officials said.

The man was carrying explosives with the apparent aim of blowing himself up inside the embassy compound, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Later, a Lebanese army statement said a second man had been arrested.

A senior Lebanese military offi-

cial said the suspected bomber, a Lebanese identified as Abed Mreish, was arrested by Lebanese soldiers at an army checkpoint about 500 yards from the embassy compound.

The incident came less than a week after the State Department urged Americans in Lebanon to keep a low profile because of growing tensions and anti-American rhetoric in the region.

In the mid-1980s, suicide bombers carried out two attacks on U.S. Embassy buildings, and Iranian-backed militants also bombed the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 American soldiers. (AP)

## Iranian Accepts Peace Prize

**At awards ceremony, Shirin Ebadi criticizes U.S.-led war on terror**

OSLO, NORWAY | Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi accepted her Nobel Peace Prize Wednesday and warned that civil liberties and human rights must not fall prey to the war on terrorism.

The first Iranian and the first Muslim woman to win the coveted award said even Western democracies have allowed the aftermath of 9/11 to erode their own strong traditions of freedom and basic rights.

"Regulations restricting human rights and basic freedoms ... have been justified and given legitimacy under the cloak of the war on terrorism," she said, speaking in Farsi.

Ebadi was named the Nobel peace laureate for her work in fighting for democracy and the rights of women and children. In 2000, she was jailed for three weeks on charges of slandering government officials in Iran. DOUG MELLGREN (AP)



**WHO KNEW?** Alfred Nobel, who died on Dec. 10, 1896, stipulated in his will that the Nobel Peace Prize should be awarded in Oslo. The other awards are given out in Stockholm, Sweden. (AP)



## Local

## In Brief

## MINNEAPOLIS

**Moose Among Finalists For Minneapolis Police Chief**

Charles Moose, who was chief of the Montgomery County, Md., police department during the Washington, D.C., sniper investigation, is among the finalists to be the next Minneapolis police chief. Mayor R.T. Rybak and a 21-member citizen advisory committee will interview the finalists this weekend, and the mayor may announce his pick as early as next week. (AP)

## ROCKVILLE, MD.

**Bus Driver Killed After Being Struck by Vehicle**

Montgomery County police say a school bus driver was killed after being hit by a vehicle Wednesday in the Rockville area. Spokesman John Fitzgerald says the bus driver was pulling out of a church parking lot about 6:40 a.m. near the intersection of Norbeck and Muncaster Mill roads when he was involved in a collision with another car. The bus driver then got out of the bus to exchange information about the crash when he was hit by another vehicle and killed on the scene. (AP)

## WASHINGTON

**Metro Testing Translating Software for Its Web Site**

Metro on Wednesday began testing software that translates text on its Web site to Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese, German and Korean. The test will last through May 2004 and, if it's successful, Metro will expand the program to include more languages. Since the translations are lacking a sometimes-needed human touch, surveys will be available on the site, at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com), to gauge customer satisfaction. (EXPRESS)

## ALEXANDRIA, VA.

**Suspect in Teen Beating Case Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter**

One of three young suspects in the beating death of former T.C. Williams student Schuyler Jones pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. The unidentified 17-year-old is the only one of the trio facing juvenile charges stemming from the Sept. 3 incident in Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. Authorities said the teen who pleaded guilty today was the instigator of the attack. (AP)

# Norris Resigns After Indictment

## Md. State Police head charged with using funds to have affairs

BALTIMORE | Gov. Robert Ehrlich accepted the resignation of Maryland State Police Superintendent Edward T. Norris on Wednesday, hours after an unsealed indictment alleged Norris spent police funds on extramarital affairs while he was Baltimore's police commissioner.

Norris, 43, would get his job back if he is cleared of the charges in federal court in Baltimore, the governor said. Thomas E. Hutchins, secretary of the Maryland Department

of Veterans Affairs, will be acting state police superintendent, Ehrlich said.

Norris was indicted on charges of using Baltimore Police Department funds to finance affairs with several women and pay for personal trips while he was police commissioner, U.S. Attorney Thomas DiBiagio said.

Indicted with Norris was his former chief of staff at the Baltimore department, John Stendrini. They are accused of misusing more than \$20,000 between May 2000 and August 2002 from an account created from three Depression-era charity funds set up to benefit police officers. BRIAN WITTE (AP)



**Qualifications:** Lori Montgomery examines why Gov. Robert Ehrlich chose Edward Norris to be Md. State Police superintendent | [washingtonpost.com/metro](http://washingtonpost.com/metro)



People wait for flu shots outside the Allegany County, Md., Health Department. At least three Maryland counties are out of the vaccine, and others are running low.

# Local Counties Running Out of Influenza Vaccine

HAGERSTOWN, MD. | Public health agencies in at least three Maryland counties and one county in Virginia reportedly have run out of injectable influenza vaccine, prompting top health officer Wednesday to urge rationing of the remaining doses.

Public health departments in the Maryland counties of Frederick, Montgomery and Washington ran out of flu shot vaccine this week, according to reports in

The Frederick News-Post and The (Hagerstown) Herald-Mail. Fairfax County, Va., also reported that it is out of the vaccine.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is preparing to redistribute dwindling flu shot vaccine to supply those areas with the greatest need, Secretary Nelson J. Sabatinisaid. He asked health departments and other providers to prioritize the needs of their clients. (AP)

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# Local

## Witness: Malvo Insane At Time of Sniper Spree

CHESAPEAKE, VA. | Lee Boyd Malvo was legally insane during last year's sniper spree because of intense indoctrination by sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad, a defense psychiatrist testified Wednesday at Malvo's trial.

"Lee was unable to distinguish between right and wrong and was unable to resist the impulse" to commit the sniper killings, said Neil Blumberg, who examined Malvo 20 times in jail.

The inability to tell right from wrong is the legal standard for insanity in Virginia. In his initial report in October, Blumberg said Malvo was "severely impaired" in his ability to tell right from wrong.

Prosecutor Robert F. Horan Jr. accused Blumberg of changing his opinion to suit the defense. Blumberg said he had only been try-



Neil Blumberg testified that Lee Boyd Malvo was legally insane last year.

ing to comport his report to what he had thought were the requirements of Virginia law, which does not ask mental health experts to render an opinion on whether a patient meets the legal definition of insanity.

Malvo's attorneys are presenting an insanity defense to capital murder charges in the death of FBI analyst Linda Franklin.

MATTHEW BARAKAT (AP)

## Report: Isabel Overwhelmed Va. Plan

RICHMOND, VA. | Hurricane Isabel overwhelmed Virginia's disaster preparedness plans, particularly state and local officials' ability to communicate with millions of people left without power or clean water in damaged or destroyed homes, a new report said Wednesday.

The hurricane ravaged Virginia's most populous areas from the Southside to northern Virginia on Sept. 18, killing 33 people, leaving

more than half of the state's residents without power and destroying more than 1,000 houses and 800 businesses worth at least \$1.6 billion.

The report by Gov. Mark R. Warner's Hurricane Isabel Assessment Team found inadequate preparation not only on the state level but, by varying degrees, among localities and even among households to a disaster as widespread as Isabel.

The report notes that it has been seven years since the state's emergency operations review has undergone a comprehensive examination despite major snow and ice storms, flooding, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the sniper shootings during that time.

Central to problems the report identifies and solutions it recommends is communication — a consistent thread in reviews and hearings on the hurricane response by congressional and state legislative panels. (AP)

## Bill Would Ease D.C. Budget Process

WASHINGTON | The Senate on Tuesday approved a bill that would allow D.C. officials to begin spending the locally funded portion of the city budget at the start of a new fiscal year — leaving only the federal portion to weather the full congressional approval process.

The measure, which is pending in the House, would give Congress 30 days to review the local part of the budget before it goes into effect. Proponents said the budget often is delayed in Congress by unrelated issues.

The city's budget for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 was wrapped into a massive federal spending bill that cleared the House Monday, but faces resistance in the Senate. (EXPRESS)

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"This has been almost a perfect storm of cuts coming from all directions."

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# Money

## In Brief

### BANKRUPTCY

#### United on Verge of \$2 Billion Deal to Rise From Chapter 11

United Airlines, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection a year ago, is close to securing \$2 billion in exit financing to help it emerge, sources familiar with the deal said Wednesday. United will seek \$1.6 billion in loan guarantees from the federal Air Transportation Stabilization Board, with private banks providing an additional \$400 million, according to sources. That request could come as soon as next week, the sources said. (AP)

### LITIGATION

#### 5 HealthSouth Executives Sentenced in \$2.7B Scandal

A former HealthSouth executive was sentenced to five months in prison Wednesday and four co-workers received probation for their part in a \$2.7 billion accounting scandal at the health-care chain. The five were the first to be sentenced in the fast-moving corporate corruption case in which 15 executives in all agreed to plead guilty. Each had faced up to five years in prison. (AP)

# Freddie Mac Fined \$125M in Scandal

## Regulators accuse mortgage giant of betraying public trust

WASHINGTON | Freddie Mac is paying a \$125 million civil fine and is being threatened with possible curbs on its growth as federal regulators blame management misconduct for the mortgage giant's \$5 billion misstatement of earnings.

In a report issued Wednesday, regulators accused the government-sponsored company of violating its public trust.

A pliant board of directors and a system of compensating executives tied to annual earnings targets also contributed to the accounting crisis at Freddie Mac that has brought the ouster of four top executives since early June, the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight found in its investigation.

The agency, which supervises Freddie Mac and its larger rival

Fannie Mae in the multi-trillion-dollar home mortgage market, cited "a pattern of inappropriate conduct and improper management of earnings."

Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae were created by Congress to pump money into the home mortgage market, by buying home loans from banks and other lenders and bundling them into securities for sale on Wall Street.

MARCY GORDON (AP)

### FREDDIE FACTS

- **Freddie Mac purchased** 2,845,868 single-family mortgages in 2001, totalling \$384 billion.
- **The median balance** of a single-family mortgage purchased in 2001 was \$134,975.
- **One mortgage** was purchased every 11 seconds in 2001.
- **More than 30 million** families have financed their homes through Freddie Mac since 1970.

Source: Freddie Mac

## FBI's Computer Upgrade Faces Delays

WASHINGTON | The FBI is facing serious delays and cost overruns as it struggles to upgrade a computer system so agents worldwide can better share intelligence information and investigative files.

An important component of the system, known as the Virtual Case File, was originally expected to be operational by Saturday.

Now, officials say, it will likely be several months into 2004 before

agents have access on their desktop computers to a huge new terrorism database containing some 40 million documents.

Also, the FBI said Wednesday that the price for the system could now top \$626 million, instead of the original projection of \$380 million. (AP)

## Market Action

### New York Stock Exchange

#### Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
KornFer	11.22	+1.23	+12.3
PopeTal	15.62	+1.07	+7.4
AK Steel	3.90	+.24	+6.6
LaBrnch	9.82	+.53	+5.7
SmedvB	5.92	+.31	+5.5

#### Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AutoZone	80.25	-11.09	-12.1
Coeur	4.76	-.49	-9.3
MDC	62.00	-5.75	-8.5
PennAm	13.25	-1.18	-8.2
StdPac	43.78	-3.79	-8.0

### NASDAQ Stock Market

#### Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Hurco	3.74	+.88	+30.8
IvanhoeEn	3.63	+.81	+28.7
OnTrack	11.59	+2.14	+22.6
Avistar	2.29	+.39	+20.5
BoydBros	5.71	+.91	+19.0

#### Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
NtwrEng	6.10	-3.92	-39.1
Minorpln rs	3.16	-1.22	-27.9
UnicoA	5.55	-1.65	-22.9
8x8 Inc	4.42	-1.23	-21.8
Smtek	6.65	-1.35	-16.9

### Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	4.00	4.00
Fed Funds close	1.00	1.00
3-month	0.89	0.92
2-year	1.92	2.08
10-year	4.32	4.41
30-year	5.15	5.19

### Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5734	.5726	.6362
Canadian Dollar	1.3068	1.3088	1.5600
European Euro	.8183	.8172	.9910
Japanese Yen	108.26	107.07	123.71
Mexican Peso	11.2230	11.1725	10.1770
Taiwanese Dollar	34.03	34.01	34.85

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-1.56	-3.67	-1.13
-0.02	-0.19	-0.11
9921.86	1904.65	1059.05

### Bank Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
BcBilVArg	12.52	-.03	+28.9
BcoSnCH	10.79	-.07	+53.0
BankOne	43.70	-.07	+19.6
Bk of Am	75.59	+.18	+8.7
Barclay	34.23	-.82	+38.6
CredSuisse	34.46	-.51	+61.9
DeutschBk	75.95	-.16	+67.2
FleetBost	40.75	+.09	+67.7
HSBC	75.42	-.64	+37.2
JPMorgCh	34.67	-.16	+44.5
LloydTSB	28.57	-.44	-.1
UBS AG	65.49	-.61	+36.1
US Bancorp	27.78	-.07	+30.9
Wachovia	45.46	-.30	+24.8
WellsFrgo	56.41	-.02	+20.4

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# Sports

LIVE ONLINE

## College Bowls

From [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline)

Washington Post staff writer

**LIZ CLARKE** was online Wednesday discussing college football's highly controversial bowl system.

**To ask a dumb question, what is Division I's objection to the Division I-AA, II and III playoff formats?**

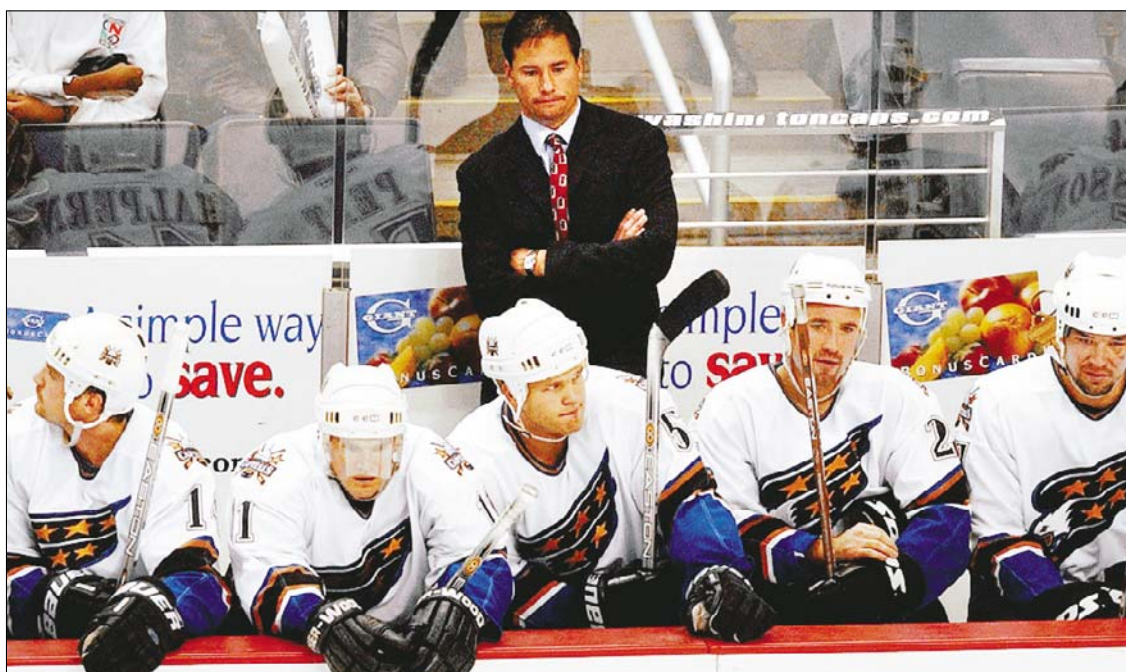
Hardly a dumb question. I don't think D-I so much objects to the I-AA etc. playoff format. The fact that D-I won't adopt a similar format is all about money and power. The I-AA, II and III playoffs are controlled by the NCAA, which means the NCAA sets the rules and decides how the money is shared. But DI (we're speaking of D-IA here) post-season is controlled by six men: commissioners of the major conferences. The last thing they would do is hand over the power to decide who gets in and who gets rich from it to the NCAA.

**Do you ever think there will be a revised playoff system in Division I-A, similar to what is seen on the D I-AA level? Or do you think there is too much money involved in bowl games to ever see a real change?**

I do think there will be some incremental move toward a playoff in 2006 or afterward. (When I say playoff, that could be as minimal as adding a 5th game after the four major bowls to crown a champion). The hangup isn't all the money that's involved in the existing bowls; it's who gets their mitts on all that money. Right now, it's a rather exclusive club. Why share?

**Why not go back to a 10-game regular season schedule? That was the standard when I was in college (early '50s) and would leave time for a playoff.**

You must be an academic. That would be best for all the kids involved and I think a smart idea. The problem is money. Ohio State played eight home games this year; at \$3 million per, that's \$24 million (a rough guess on my part). Athletic directors may say they care about student-athlete welfare, but not as much as they care about revenue streams.



**BENCHED:** With Bruce Cassidy behind them, the Washington Capitals started off this season by winning only eight games.

## Caps Dump Coach Cassidy

**Ex-assistant Hanlon named new head of struggling Washington**

**PRO HOCKEY** | Coach Bruce Cassidy was fired Wednesday by the Washington Capitals, who are mired at the bottom of the National Hockey League standings despite one of the league's highest payrolls.

Assistant coach Glen Hanlon will replace Cassidy. Hanlon joined the staff last season after spending three

seasons as coach of the Portland Pirates, Washington's American Hockey League affiliate.

The Capitals are 8-18-1-1 with 18 standings points, tied with Pittsburgh for fewest in the league.

Washington has struggled with an inexperienced defense and also has had trouble scoring despite a lineup that includes Jaromir Jagr, Peter Bondra and Robert Lang.

Cassidy replaced Ron Wilson in

June 2002 even though Cassidy had no NHL coaching experience.

Cassidy arrived to find that his in-your-face style did not always mesh with the NHL's highly paid players. The Capitals made the playoffs last season but were eliminated in the first round by Tampa Bay.

Hanlon's first game as head coach will be Thursday night at home against Boston.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

**Capital decision:** Jason La Canfora discusses the Washington Capitals' decision to fire head coach Bruce Cassidy | [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline) at 11 a.m.

**Falcons Turns To Phillips After Firing Reeves**

**PRO FOOTBALL** | Dan Reeves was fired abruptly by the Atlanta Falcons on Wednesday with three games left in a disappointing season marred by star Michael Vick's injury.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips will take over as head coach for the rest of the season.

Falcons owner Arthur Blank told Reeves — the sixth-winningest coach in NFL history — that he would be fired at the end of the season but wanted him to coach the rest of the way. Reeves asked to be let go immediately. (AP)

**Redskins' Smith Will Probably Retire**

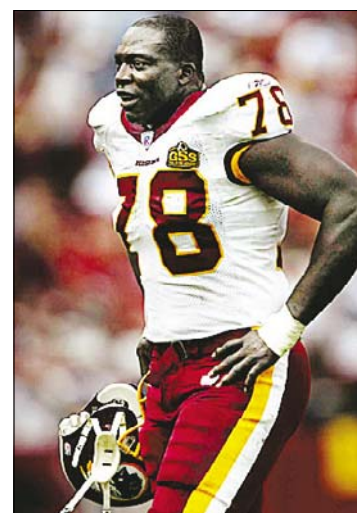
**PRO FOOTBALL** | Even though he now has the sack record, Bruce Smith can't bring himself to say absolutely, positively that he's retiring.

The Washington Redskins defensive end hemmed and hawed on the matter Wednesday, acknowledging again that this "more than likely" will be his final season.

"Those are my intentions," Smith said. "Unless there's some unusual circumstance that comes into play, more than likely these will be the final three games of my career."

Smith essentially conceded back in training camp that this, his 19th season, would be his last.

It was assumed at the time he would have no trouble getting



Bruce Smith can't say "retirement" yet, but this may be his final season.

## In Brief

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**  
**WUSA Commissioner Eyes Comeback for League**

The WUSA could return in a smaller version next year and as a full league in 2005. The women's soccer league, which folded in September, might come back in 2004 with a handful of festivals featuring the top players, according to WUSA commissioner Tony DiCicco. That would be followed by the revival of the league the following year, provided there is enough sponsorship backing. (AP)

**PRO BASKETBALL**  
**8-13 Suns Fire Johnson**

Frank Johnson was fired as coach of the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday after an 8-13 start to the season. The Suns promoted assistant Mike D'Antoni, who was coach of the Denver Nuggets in the lockout-shortened 1998-99 season and had a 14-36 record. He joined the Suns as an assistant last season. (AP)

**PRO FOOTBALL**  
**Couch to Start for Browns, May Restructure Contract**

Tim Couch got his job back and will start Sunday against Denver for the Cleveland Browns, who have juggled quarterbacks all season. Couch, who played the entire second half of Monday night's loss to the Rams after replacing Kelly Holcomb, said for the first time Wednesday that he would be willing to restructure his contract for next season. (AP)

the 3 1/2 sacks he needed to pass Reggie White for No. 1 on the all-time list.

Instead, it took 13 games for Smith to get career sack No. 199, forcing him to keep the door slightly ajar for his return in case the record didn't happen.

He passed White's 198 when he sacked New York Giants quarterback Jesse Palmer on Sunday.

Asked Wednesday under what circumstance he would play again, Smith would only say: "I never go into a situation saying I'll never do something." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

**Dallas week:** Mark Maske previews the Redskins-Cowboys game on Sunday | [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline) at 10:45 a.m.



## Sports

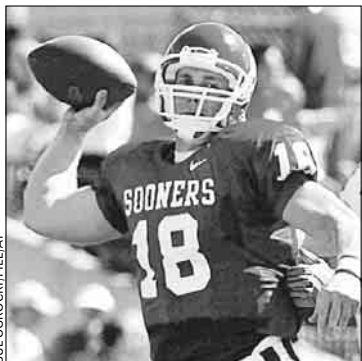
# Heisman Hopeful White Named AP Player of Year

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Jason White spent much of the night in darkness, staring at his bedroom ceiling, his swollen right knee slightly elevated.

It was Sept. 7, 2002, hours after Oklahoma's quarterback crumpled to the turf against Alabama with a torn knee ligament. He had the same injury in his other knee the year before. Unable to sleep, he feared his career was over before it really began.

Yet White did return — and produced a remarkable comeback. He beat out three quarterbacks for the starting job, put Oklahoma in the Bowl Championship Series title game and was honored Wednesday as The Associated Press College Player of the Year.

He emerged as the nation's top-rated passer, leading the third-ranked Sooners (12-1) to a Sugar Bowl berth against No. 2



Josh White won the AP Player of the Year award. Is the Heisman next?

LSU (12-1) on Jan. 4.

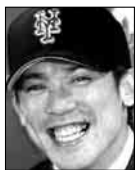
White, a Heisman Trophy finalist, received 27 votes in balloting by the panel of sports writers and broadcasters on the AP college football poll.

Pittsburgh receiver Larry Fitzgerald was second with 19 votes, followed by Mississippi quarterback Eli Manning. JOEL ANDERSON (AP)

## New York Adds Another Matsui

PRO BASEBALL | Kazuo Matsui, already a star in New York, didn't have to go to Nobu. The food from the world famous sushi chef was brought to him.

Matsui was the toast of the town Wednesday after finalizing his \$20.1 million, three-year contract with the New York Mets. Handed his new jersey by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Matsui flashed a borrowed Mets 1986 World Series ring and proclaimed in English:



Matsui

"Hello everybody. My name is Kaz Matsui. I love New York."

A night earlier, Mets owner Fred Wilpon took him to dinner at the Tribeca Grill — the food, however was brought over from the restaurant of Nobu Matsuhisa, whose tables are among the most coveted in the city.

And while the Mets usually introduce players at Shea Stadium, they used a Manhattan hotel to show off Matsui on Wednesday.

Bloomberg, who also introduced Hideki Matsui in January after the outfielder signed with the Yankees, told New York's newest Matsui that Mets pitcher Al Leiter could show him the famous sites around town. (AP)

## Today's TV Lineup

**PRO HOCKEY** (7 p.m. on Comcast) The Washington Capitals face the Boston Bruins.

**PRO HOCKEY** (9 p.m. on ESPN) Two of the NHL's most storied franchises play when the Detroit Red Wings visit the Chicago Black Hawks.

**PRO BASKETBALL** (7:30 p.m. on TNT) The Detroit Pistons visit LeBron James and

the Cleveland Cavaliers.

**PRO BASKETBALL** (10 p.m. on TNT) The Phoenix Suns host the New Orleans Hornets.

**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL** (7 p.m. on ESPN) Standout point guards Darius Washington and Sebastian Telfair play when Edgewater (Orlando, Fla.) faces Lincoln (Brooklyn, N.Y.).

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Capitol Hill, 660 Pennsylvania Ave., SE (Eastern Market Metro)	(202) 546-8818
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# Lookout

## Old Comics, New Life

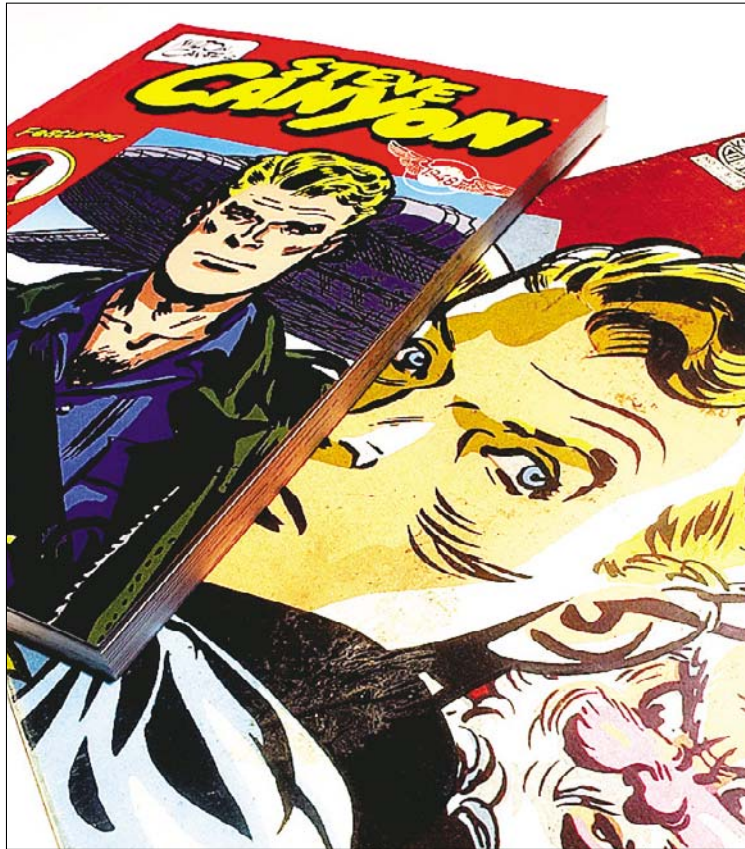
**Illustrated stories of yesteryear are back on bookstore shelves**

**PUBLISHING** | Mark Thompson wants to take you back to a simpler time. He's among a number of publishers who have tapped into the vintage comic book market and want to put those old-time stories back on the shelves.

Thompson's Checker Book Publishing finds old comics and comic strips, secures the rights to reprint them, gives them a make-over and packages them in paperback form. He sells them to bookstores and peddles them online.

Checker, founded in 2001, is one of the few companies that devotes itself to reprinting the older, classic comics, said Calvin Reid, comics editor at Publisher's Weekly. Smaller companies may do the same thing but without Checker's wide distribution, he said.

Industry giants Marvel Comics and DC Comics also reprint some of



**COMIC COMEBACK:** With a few graphic tweaks, Steve Canyon is ready for readers.

their classics, recognizing demand from an older generation trying to salvage the artifacts of its youth.

"It's an exploration of the American culture in the broadest sense. And if people don't collect and publish this stuff, it's lost forever," comics historian and author Robert C. Harvey said.

Most Checker reprints are science fiction or adventure comics.

This fall, the company released vintage reprints of Steve Canyon, the square-jawed Air Force pilot. Reprints of "Flash Gordon" and "Dick Tracy" also recently came out.

"They are reprinting some of the most highly regarded and acclaimed comics writers," Reid said. "Some of the books they do may not be the most famous, but they are of quality that they know there will be a demand for."

"Steve Canyon," which appeared from 1947 to 1988, was created by Milton Caniff. At the height of its popularity it was carried by 600 newspapers. Papers began dropping the strip because of protests against the Vietnam War, Harvey said.

U.S. retailers sold about 100 million graphic novels — collections of serialized comics, current or classic, in book form — in 2002, up from 75

million in 2001, according to ICv2, a consulting company in Madison, Wis., that follows the industry.

Thompson wouldn't disclose Checker's sales figures but said they doubled last year from the year before.

At the end of 2002, the company had four books in print. It currently has nine out, with 10 more due in the next four months.

"It's pretty much picking the right books," Thompson said. "The stuff that we explore varies from marginally easy to get to completely impossible to get. Sometimes we just get plain lucky."

**"It's an exploration of American culture in the broadest sense."**

It usually takes a month to reproduce the comics into a book format and three months to print the books. The paperbacks are usually sold for \$15 to \$20 apiece, although some cost as much as \$30.

Checker's customers include both diehard collectors and casual readers. Thompson has filled orders from Italy, Sweden, Norway, Brazil and Spain. JAMES HANNAH (AP)

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# Entertainment

# WeekendPass

# State of Heads

A photography exhibit and an exuberant musical celebrate the art of the diva topper

**STAGE/MUSEUMS** | It's not about the hat; it's about the spirit of the woman beneath it, amplified by it, radiant. The hat tells the story of the woman. She will overcome. With "hattitude."

Photographer Michael Cunningham and journalist Craig Marberry captured the haberdashery of southern African-American women in the book "Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats," and Regina Taylor adapted it for the stage in this high-energy musical coming to Arena Stage.

A combination of full gospel revival, fashion show and history lesson, "Crowns" finds a Brooklyn teenager, Yolanda, recovering from her brother's murder in the South Carolina home of her grandmother. But the red cap Yolanda wears in memory of her brother is just the opening needed by the five "hat queens" who know a thing or two about suffering, men, women, God and the power of headwear.

A concurrent exhibition at the Anacostia Museum and Center for African-American History and Culture shows the original photographs that inspired the musical.

Thirty black-and-white portraits show the range of ages, backgrounds and personalities that can be expressed in glorious fabric. Diva-dom never looked so righteous. Both open Dec. 12. **BOB MASSEY**

*Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW; \$42-\$60; 202-488-3300. (Waterfront-SEU)*

*Anacostia Museum and Center for African-American History and Culture, 1901 Fort Place SE; 202-287-3306. (Anacostia-Navy Yard)*



**SUNDAY BEST:** The interplay of dark and light fields is just as important as Cassandra Patterson Brown's crisp dotted cartwheel hat and matching purse in one of Michael Cunningham's elegant photographs from "Crowns."

## Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE  
[WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

### Shop Till You Rock: Musical Spree

Twice a year, the Black Cat clears the amps and cigarette butts off the stage and invites vendors, individuals and local small-scale artisans to unload their stuff on a holiday-shopping-frenzied public. For those of us for whom the plastic pleasures of the nearest mall hold no allure, Rock-N-Shop, with its array of furniture, clothes, CDs, vinyl recordings and other stuff is the place to pick up that perfect little something. Code Orange (Fugazi's Jerry Busher) and friends will make the accompanying noises.

*Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Sun., Dec. 14., 8:30 p.m., free; 202-667-7960. (U St.-Cardozo)*



Suzy Boggus sings traditional country music with a contemporary sensibility.

### Swing Into the Season: Suzy Boggus

Have yourself "A Swingin' Little Christmas" with country-rock-roots singer Suzy Boggus. Her voice is as high and clear as the stars in the winter sky and her song selection is guaranteed to soothe and cheer.

*Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Sat., Dec. 13., 7:30 p.m., \$29.50; 703-573-7328.*

Continued on page 14



**Glam Slam:** Are you lacking in decadence? Low on British glitter-rock? Placebo has the cure.

**MUSIC | 14**



**Alien Invasion:** Earth Muppets face outer-space Muppets in a dazzling children's show.

**STAGE | 16**



**Bundles of Joy:** It takes only excellent chocolate and the will to impress to make divine truffles.

**FOOD | 19**



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ALL THAT GLITTERS: Pansexual bad boys are as much about style as substance.

# Fabulous Fakes

## Placebo is the cure for glam-rock deficiency

MUSIC | A fantastic compendium of clichés, Placebo continues a massive world tour Friday at the 9:30 Club. The spiky, contemptuous, androgynous, industrial glam rock of the band is most effective if one believes one is listening to art.

The London-based art-tarts became international stars soon after releasing their divinely decadent debut record in 1996. They still headline stadium gigs around the world — and play to small club audiences in the United States. A mag-

netic and seductive live presence has earned the trio a cult following here, but they remain best known for the radio hit "Pure Morning" and its accompanying film clip, and for their appearance (as the T. Rex-ish Flaming Creatures) performing Marc Bolan's "20th Century Boy" in 1998's "Velvet Goldmine."

Placebo's gender-defying visual impact is as hothouse overripe and overconfident as its music — crunchy alternative rock and pop-industrial, punctuated by singer Brian Molko's remarkably snide, inordinately nasal and exceedingly repetitive vocals. People who hate Placebo cite Molko's admittedly annoying voice as the source of their displeasure; people who love Placebo thrill to the snarling keen of his hissy-fit wit.

On their most mature record, 2003's "Sleeping With Ghosts," Placebo adopts new-wave tricks and electronic enhancement removed from the knock-over-the-candelabra thrash of its Sonic Youth-influenced early work.

But fear not, old-school fans, ever cognizant of the need to please an audience, the band can be counted on to deliver the punked-up scorches of its first three albums.

With Stellastarr. TIM FOLLOS  
9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Fri., Dec. 12, 9 p.m., \$20; 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)

# TopStops

Continued from page 13

## Hardtack Holiday: Christmas at Camp

See how yuletide was celebrated in the 1860s at Fort Ward's Christmas in Camp Open House, with period decorations, live music and a Civil War-era Santa.

Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Brad-dock Road, Alexandria; Sat., Dec. 13, noon-4 p.m., \$2; 703-838-4848.

Continued on page 16



"Now, Billy, remember to be good and kind and always keep a musket handy."

## LIVE MUSIC | THE WHO?



SATIN DOLLS: Anonymous 4's holiday program of early and modern choral works is called "Wolcum Yule," which is Old English for "nice corset." Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Fri., Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m., \$35; 202-467-4600.



# Santa's Day Off

**OUT & ABOUT** | Far be it from us to judge, but how does Santa Claus have time to dawdle over tea, pose with pets and host a hayride while our breath comes in deep, ragged gasps just thinking how late we are with the baking? Yep, unjudgy, that's us. But Santa seems to have an awful lot of free time. It's enough to make you wonder ... but no.

## Brunch at the Ritz With Santa

Holiday characters like Frosty and Rudolph join Santa for a glamorous brunch for children ages 12 and under. Carolers will entertain diners, and kids can make ornaments. *Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, 1250 Hayes St., Arlington, 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; \$30 children, \$70 adults, reservations required; 703-412-2760. (Pentagon City)*



St. Nick, a man with time on his hands

## Brunch With Santa at the Kennedy Center

Meet Santa, partake of fine chicken fingers and mini-hamburgers, decorate and devour cookies, all in the glamorous environs of the Kennedy Center's Roof Terrace Restaurant. *Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sun., Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$17.95 children's buffet, \$33.95 adults; 202-416-8555. (Foggy Bottom)*

## Santa's Hayride

Since they're more accustomed to vast white frozen tundras than gold-and-

red harvest twilights, Santa's helpers are pretty darn excited about joining you and you on a hay wagon ride to Santa Land. *Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield; Sat., Dec. 13, 5-7 p.m.; 703-569-0285.*

Earlier that day, "Santa Claws" will be available for posing with your pet — by Lake Accotink's generous definition of a pet, that's "cat, dog or other furry friend." BYO poop scoop, incentive treats and five bucks for a digital snap. *Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield; Sat., Dec. 13, noon-2 p.m.; 703-569-0285. (EXPRESS)*

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**WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY**

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## TopStops

Continued from page 14

**Angelspotting:  
Hunt at Cathedral**

The folks behind this year's National Cathedral treasure hunt of sorts are dubbing it "Angels We Have Heard on High," but kids who attend won't be *listening* for the angelic beings. They'll be *looking* for them — scrutinizing stone carvings, stained glass and needlepoint figures for the elusive celestial beings on this one-of-a-kind tour. There will also be a Christmas story and angel craft-making session.

National Cathedral, Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW; Sat., Dec. 13, 10 a.m. and noon, \$6 per child, reservations are required; 202-537-2934.

**Twisty Trio:  
Girlyman at Iota**

It's fitting for a band named Girlyman, if you think about, that it would play high-energy modern folk. Anyway, Girlyman is one girly and two men and everyone does everything — sing and play numerous instruments and twist gender roles until they beg for mercy. With Chrissy Coughlin.

Iota, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Sun., Dec. 14, 9 p.m., \$10; 703-522-8340. (Court House)



Girlyman offers zingy, gender-defying folk rock for a post-pigeonhole era.

**Roll Over, Tchaikovsky:  
Duke's 'Nutcracker'**

Christmas, unlike most supposedly pious holidays, is a swinging time of year. So there's no better way to feel the warmth of the season than with the Nutcracker Suite, Duke Ellington-style. Trombonist Eric Felten leads his Jazz Orchestra through this jumpin' holiday chestnut.

Blues Alley, 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; Thu., Dec. 11, 8 and 10 p.m., \$25; 202-337-4141.

Continued on page 18

## Mars Needs Muppets

STAGE | Beware, people of Earth: Martians are landing.

Do not be alarmed, do not panic, back away from the duct tape. Please proceed directly to shelters in Fairfax, Va., and Washington, D.C., where kind-hearted furry puppets teach the aliens how we do it here on the big blue marble, thus literally disarming the E.T.s and taking a giant step toward intergalactic peace and spreading the "Hokey Pokey" throughout the solar system.

Big Bird, Grover, Elmo and the whole Sesame Street gang star in "Out of This World!," a fancy, Broadway-style production that will entertain parents while delighting and educating children about letters, numbers and how to get along with folks who don't look or speak — or even



"EARTH PIZZA IS SO BEAUTIFUL! AND PUFFY!" Muppet aliens disembark to find a planet on which not everyone looks, thinks — or even dances — the same way.

dance — quite the way they do.

The show features such beloved segments as "Journey to Ernie" and "Elmo's World" as well as songs for old and young, including "We Are Family" and the timeless classic, "Disco Duck."

Sesame Street Live is for toddlers and pre-schoolers with a thirst for learning and an already deeply ingrained obedience to anything called "Elmo."

And if your wee ones are still in a snit over those sold-out Wiggles shows, here's your chance to become "World's Best Dad" again.

(EXPRESS)

George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax; Thu.-Sun., Dec. 11-14, \$14-\$23; 703-993-3000 or 800-432-7329.

Also at the D.C. Stadium Armory Thu.-Sun., Dec. 18-21.

## FOREIGN ART | STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND



**YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU?** The works of Laura Amussen, Lily Cox-Richard, Harrison Haynes, George Jenne and Michele Kong, all either recent arrivals or strangers to Washington, are featured in "The Out-of-Towners." Above, Cox-Richard's "Volcanoe 356," an unsettling view of the family farm as bucolic, thriving and threatened with destruction. Through Jan. 17. Transformer Gallery, 1404 P St. NW; show opens Sat., Dec. 13; 202-483-1102.

## Friday in

The Washington Post | Weekend Section

**In Plane Sight**

The Smithsonian clears out its storage hangar. On Monday, the Udvar-Hazy branch of the Air & Space Museum out at Dulles opens its doors. | *Cover*

**Live From the Metro**

Art meets commuting as the D.C. 9th International Improvisation Plus+ Festival goes underground with "Redline Revisited," a dance work taking place in train cars and on platforms. | *Dance*

**Alt Hip-Hop**

There's hip-hop, and then there's a whole world of beat-based sound unlike the usual radio and club fare. Join Fritz Hahn on a crawl that travels from old-school nights to live performances to open-mike rhyme-offs. | *Nightwatch*



**HEADS UP:** It's time for the ticket giveaway to the Kennedy Center's annual Messiah singalong conducted by Barry Hemphill. Free tickets will be distributed, two per person, at 10 a.m. on Sat., Dec. 13th in the Hall of Nations. Lines form early; dress warmly.



# Entertainment | Weekend Pass

LIVE MUSIC | HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



**CONDUCTING ELECTRICITY:** The Israeli National Philharmonic Orchestra undertakes a triumphant tour in celebration of the 55th anniversary of Israel's founding. Since its establishment as the Palestine Orchestra in 1936, the INPO has hosted some of the world's greatest musicians and conductors. Zubin Metha conducts the orchestra in "Petrouchka" and "Pictures at an Exhibition." Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sun., Dec. 14, 8 p.m., \$35-\$125; 202-467-4600.

# The Fall of the Wild

From Autumn to Ashes tries to shake up the emo scene

**MUSIC** | From Autumn to Ashes has taken the underground by storm (and will no doubt attract a horde of local fans at its show this Thursday) with a distinctive combination of pounding metal riffs, guttural screaming and earnest vocals.

If only uniqueness directly translated into quality.

At some moments, the Long Island hardcore/emo quintet hits the sweet spot: The melodic metal of the instrumentation, the raspy barking of frontman Benjamin Perry, the soaring vocals of drummer Francis Mark — they all work. But often the fusion of such disparate rock elements comes off as awkward and cheesy.

And for all its uniqueness, From Autumn to Ashes knows when to bite someone else's sound: The brutal metal pulses of the lead guitar riffs often ape those of alternative rock bands like Papa Roach. FATA



**PUTTING THE EMO IN SCREAMO:** From Autumn to Ashes plays enterprising modern rock that's as musically iconoclastic as it is lyrically anguished.

has no trouble fitting in firmly with the musical mainstream.

Since we've had it with whiny British accents, this relatively young band deserves credit for attempting to shake up the unbearably banal emo scene. From Autumn to Ashes' lapses into mediocrity don't prove

that its formula is fundamentally flawed; these guys just haven't taken it to the next level.

With Avenged Sevenfold and Dearly Departed. **PETER DENTON**  
*Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Thu., Dec. 11, 8:30 p.m., \$12; 202-667-7960. (U St.-Cardozo)*

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# An Irish Story With a Twist

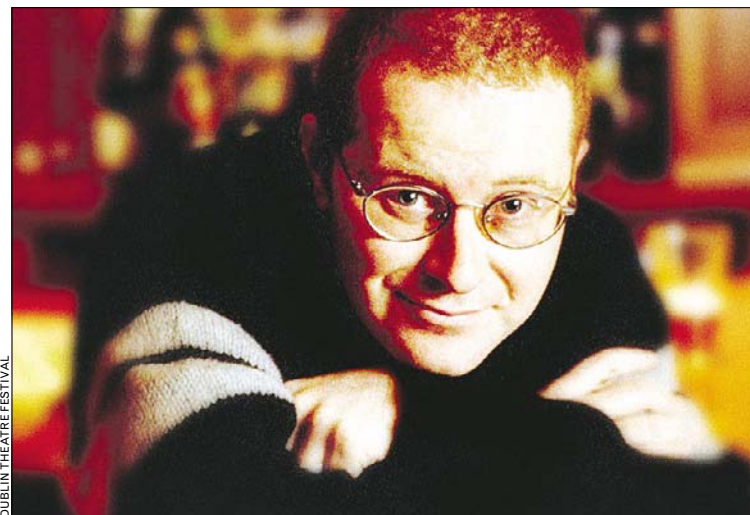
STAGE | Conor McPherson describes one of his indescribable comedies, "The Actors," as having "mad charm" and "its own genteel kind of insanity."

Which is mighty helpful of him; otherwise we would have had to think of our own descriptions, and that isn't easy. For one thing, he's a wordsmith as only an Irishman can be — a bubbling, rainbow-hued fountain of verbiage that's far too colorful for belief but far too beautiful to deny.

And he's a humorist with a wit so dry you can strike a flame off it, and an absurdist who never met a completely random moment of oddity he couldn't fashion into a stage bit.

This week he's a monologist of the old, yarn-spinning school, the words behind the voice of the star who settles into a barstool to recite McPherson's play (written when he was only 20), named "Rum and Vodka."

The protagonist is a Dubliner who routinely goes from his dull office



**SET 'EM UP, JOE:** Irish playwright Conor McPherson takes audiences on a bender through Dublin with his scabrous, shaggy-dog one-man play, "Rum and Vodka."

job to the nominal fun of hanging out in a pub with his mates. But even in Ireland, it seems, a jolly, regular after-work pint is seen as an indulgence, and the folks at the office begin to whisper that the hero's a bit of a dipso.

The insulted fellow responds with admirable clear-headed-

ness: He chucks his computer out the office window and goes on a three-day bender, at which point we come in and hear the above-detailed backstory and the history of this self-destructive charmer. Through Jan. 11. (EXPRESS)

*Warehouse Next Door, 1019 Seventh St. NW, \$15-\$25; 703-684-7990.*

## TopStops

Continued from page 16

### Cool Yule: Hip-Hop Nutcracker

After four years, Momentum Dance Theatre's "Jazz, Hip-Hop Nutcracker" has become a holiday tradition. An urban take on the classic stage story, the show features rats, ninjas, breakdancing and a mysterious visitor called Mr. D.

*Hine Junior High School, 335 8th St. SE; Sat., Dec. 13, 3 and 8 p.m., Sun., Dec. 14, 8 p.m., \$10-\$15; 202-785-0035.*



Three little "Nutcracker" dancers help give a playful new vibe to an old story.

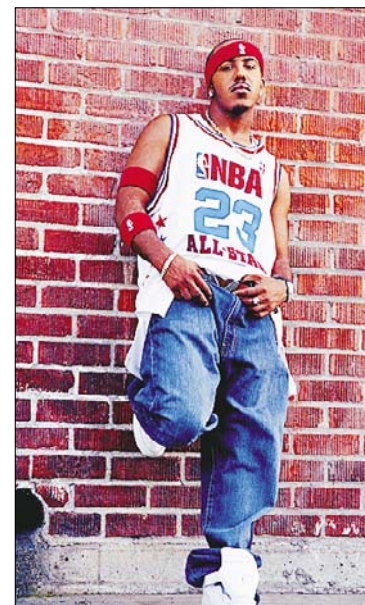
## WKYS's Lovesexy 'Lounge'

OUT & ABOUT | If you were in a coma a few weeks ago when Mr. Cool J himself blew through town to sign booty at this year's For Sisters Only expo, not a problem.

WKYS is more than eager to please the ladies of Chocolate City. Their special holiday edition of "Ladies Lounge" boasts a plethora of beefcake to ogle.

So make your way on down to Dream — where else would you happen upon Musiq Soulchild, Marques Houston and the loveable lads of 112 all for the low, low price of \$9.39, a portion of which will benefit local children's charities?

By the way, fellas, we know the estrogen levels are going to be high. But bite the bullet and break out your Sunday best, because a female disappointed that MH didn't touch her hand while singing is a female in need of comfort and the offer



Gentlemen, let the fact that there's only one Marques Houston work for you.

of a drink, and that's where you come in.

Anyway, once Marques gets them "up in da club" and 112 uses phrases like "hot and wet," they surely won't mind, as Musiq says, "acting like your lady." DARONA WILLIAMS

*Dream, 1350 Okie St. NE; Thu., Dec. 11, 6 p.m., \$9.39; 202-636-9030.*

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### CATCH UP WITH THE

CLUB SCENE. Read  
Eric Brace's  
"Nightwatch" column,  
Fridays in the Weekend  
section.



# Food | Weekend Pass

## Chocolate Truffles

Seriously, Virginia, you can bypass the Godiva shop this year and make your own chocolate truffles instead. No exotic equipment is required, but good-quality chocolate is a must. (Sorry, this is a job for bigger blocks than Hershey's.) Grab a friend or a kid and make these little balls of joy together. The results are impressive — even good enough to give away as gifts.

Essentially, you are making a ganache, a mixture of melted chocolate and cream. Additional enhancers, such as coffee, liquor and butter, are optional. The recipe below is derived from my days at culinary school, then revised after various experiments. I like the intensity and richness of flavor that coffee powder, butter and liquor (think bourbon or cognac) bring to the ganache, but feel free to experiment. KIM O'DONNEL (WASHINGTONPOST.COM)



### INGREDIENTS:

16 ounces good quality, bittersweet or semisweet chocolate (Valrhona, El Rey, Scharffen Berger, Guittard and Callebaut are some excellent choices)

6 ounces heavy cream

2 tablespoons espresso powder

1 ounce unsalted butter

splash liquor: cognac, bourbon, rum, brandy

confectioner's sugar, cocoa powder, cinnamon for rolling

### METHOD:

- Coarsely chop chocolate and place in a large, shallow bowl. Heat cream and espresso powder in a medium-sized saucepan until bubbles appear on sides. Remove pan from heat. Pour mixture over chopped chocolate. Stir gently with a clean rubber spatula. Add butter, stir. Add liquor (if using), stir. Mixture should be smooth, shiny and thoroughly blended.
- Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until mixture is able to hold a shape but is not hard (about an hour).
- Spoon half of the ganache into a pastry bag or use a melon baller dipped in cornstarch to scoop out balls. You are making mounds about 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter. Drop mounds onto a waxed or parchment paper-lined baking tray. Cover with plastic and chill again, at least 30 minutes.
- With hands or latex gloves, roll mounds until desired roundness is achieved, then dip in small dishes with a few ounces of cocoa powder, powdered sugar, cinnamon, shredded coconut or nuts.
- Serve immediately. Store truffles in an airtight container in the refrigerator, where they will keep for up to one month.



**How do I do that again?** Watch Kim O'Donnel's chocolate truffles video at [washingtontpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtontpost.com/liveonline) for more hand-holding.

## This Oven Does the Thinking

**KITCHEN** | Roast a holiday turkey in two hours? The folks at General Electric say it's possible with their new GE Profile Oven with Trivection technology.

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cook recipes up to five times faster than a traditional oven. Simply tell the oven the kind of food, time and temperature you want and the oven calculates the right combination of energies needed.

The appliance is available in single-wall models for between \$2,300 and \$2,599; in double-wall models for between \$3,699 and \$3,899; and in a range model for between \$2,799 and \$2,999. For more information, visit [www.geconsumerproducts.com](http://www.geconsumerproducts.com). LIZ ATWOOD

(BALTIMORE SUN/LATWP)

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We will also be conducting a **Job Fair** on Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Courtyard Marriott, 900 F Street N.W. (Gallery Place, 9th Street Exit) Please apply in person.  
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**Nurse Practitioner** Fredericksburg area, opportunity for certified nurse practitioner to provide primary care in a long-term care setting. Acute care/vent exp a +. for FT position. prev long-term care exp pref. Please send resume to Edward Cruz Fax 914-686-4227.

**Nurse Practitioner** Washington DC area, opportunity for DC certified nurse practitioners to provide primary care in a long-term care setting. Acute care/vent exp a +. for FT position. prev long-term care exp pref. Please send resume to Edward Cruz Fax 914-686-4227.

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**FALLS CH**—7571 Chrisland Cove. \$1850. Waterfront - 2 master suites, loft, balcony, deck, ½ block to metrobus. Vacant. O/A. 703-356-2212.

**HUNTER'S PARADISE**—128 acs, lots of deer & turkey, stocked pond, free gas, great oppty for mountain get away or residence. \$200,000. For details call Mark at 1-800-439-2024.

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**MCLEAN \$950,000** **OUT OF THE ORDINARY** 3500 s.f. living space. rebtl brick & cedar siding. 3 story split foyer, corner lot. 16' cath ceil. 6BR. 4BA. gourmet kit/Courian counters/cherry oak cabinets. Huge Master Suite, w-i closet. Jacuzzi/shower/dbl sink. hdwd flrs on upper lvl. w-o bsmt w/French drs to deck & fncd yard. 571-259-7443 **Don German Real Estate**

**N.E. 8 P ST.**—2800 SF all on one floor, brick garage with bay door. No automotive. \$2300/mo. **Thomas D. Walsh Rltr** 202-237-8488

**NORTHERN NECK VA**—New 3BR hm, overlk 2 ponds. Upscale commty, boat slips, pool, etc. Wont last. \$249,500. Call Joe Emerson, Ownr/Agt, Middle Bay Rlty, 410 610-9890 or 800-529-5122

**OLNEY/NORBECK GROVE \$629,900** **First Offering.** Exciting, beaut stone-front colo. Side loading gar, spac. kit & fam rm, 3 fin lvls, 4BR, 3½BA. **SCHLESINGER CO.** 301-949-2131

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**SLAUGHTER BEACH, DE**—4 waterview Delaware Bay lots avail. 75x102 ft. Public water, on-site septic approval, private road. RE/MAX Twin Counties, Joan, 302-422-2392; 866-80-REMAX

**SPRINGFIELD/Burke \$239K FORECLOSURE** 3BR, 2½BA, others to choose from. \$1025/mo. 4.5% 5 yr arm. RE/MAX 703-625-9392 www.ffxzerodown.com

**TYSONS**—Open Sun 1-4. 2132 Tysons Exec Ct. Mins to Dunn Loring Metro, 3 lvl, 4BR, 3FBA, det. 6 yr old Colonial in Tysons Exec. Village, \$687,000. Call Ceari at Camelot Realtors, 571-259-4053.

**UPPER MARLBORO**—Spectacular home. One of a Kind. Kit & MSBA, renov w/upgrd Designer gourmet kit & delx bath w/jacuzzi, LR, DR, FR w/brk frpl, work shop/studio, hdwd flrs, game rm, 2 tier cust deck w/gazebo, brk patio, alarm sys, gar, lush lndscp. \$309,900. 301-299-8952; Cell 301-792-6427. J. Fling, Fairfax Realty

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WHEELS

**CAD '93 El Dorado**—Burgundy. 97K mi. New eng/ tires. Gar kept. Looks good. \$4400. 202-484-4022

**FORD '02 Explorer XLT**—4dr, 4x4, leather 73K highway mi, new body style, ex-clean in/out, \$14,500. 443-255-4018

**GMC '80 8000 Diesel**—Digger Derrick, Pitman Polecat, 7½ ton crane, top of line. Excel for electrical & construction contractors. Runs good, \$7500. 301-925-4500.

**ISUZU '98 RODEO.** 4x4, 5sp, 134K, exc cond, 1 ownr. **\$4950. 703-338-9726**

**MAZDA '01 626 ES**—V6 2.5L. Auto, 25k mi, Grey, AM/FM, CD, AC, PW/PDL, \$9900, 301-718-8054 x 3019084742 call after 12/7

**PORSCHE '01 911 C-2**—Tip, 15Kmi, Xenon, turbo wheels, full leather \$48,950. WBM 703-593-7000

**TOYOTA**—'01 4RUNNER, red w/tan int, 4WD, snrf, new tires, most opts, 50Kmi, excel cond, Toyota cert. used car warr. \$21,000. 703-303-2127 or 703-404-7200

**TOYOTA '00 Sienna XLE**—spruce/tan leath, 34,700 mi, ac, r/rk am/fm & disk CD cass, psts, cruise, pwr slid dr, ABS \$17,995. 301-869-0268;

**TOYOTA '97 4-Runner**—Ltd, loaded, Green, V-6, 4x4, 81Kmi, leath, wood console, all pwr, brush guard, new tires, CD, Tow pkg, sunrf, \$15,750. 301-214-2434

obviously look over 21 years of age. But, better to card than to be sorry and slapped with a fine, right?

**I have a second date tonight, in Shirlington. What would be your top choice for dinner?**

I'm a fan of Carlyle: nice service, good American cooking, cool (new) digs.

*Carlyle Grand Cafe, 4000 S. 28th St.; 703-931-0777.*

**Any word on Komi? What is it?**

Komi is an important and eager-to-please — if new and untested — addition to what amounts to one of the most dismal restaurant neighborhoods in the city. You owe it to yourself to try it out.

*Komi, 1509 17th St. NW; 202-332-9200.*

**I've got some errands in Cleveland Park. Who serves a good lunch in those parts?**

Lavandou! I wish now that I had included it in the restaurant book. Try the hearty beef stew from the standing menu.

*Lavandou, 3321 Connecticut Ave. NW, 202-966-3002.*

Pizza Perfect

**COOKBOOKS** | Rare is the cookbook that draws in readers by the power of its plot.

Yet that is precisely what baker Peter Reinhart manages with his latest volume, “American Pie” (Ten Speed Press, 2003, \$25), which tells the surprisingly compelling tale of the author’s hunt for the perfect pizza.

“Forget about who invented pizza,” he says. “The real question is where was it perfected, where was it elevated from a simple peasant food to the craft, to the art form we appreciate today?”

To answer that Reinhart brings the reader along as he travels to countless pizzerias across Italy and the United States, sampling new-and-old-world variations and taking note of what works and what doesn’t.

Reinhart’s passion for baking is evident as he gets into the kitchens of the restaurants he visits. Whether he is learning about pizza that resembles a volcano in Florence



Learn to make Pizza Margherita from “American Pie” by Peter Reinhart.

or designer pies in Los Angeles, it is a joy to go along with him.

So what is the perfect pizza and where did Reinhart find it? There’s no single answer. Like a repast after a long journey, Reinhart rewards his readers with the fruits of his labor — a collection of exceptional and varied recipes, and sound suggestions for making the baking easier.

J.M. HIRSCH (AP)



# People

EGGS

## Game Over

The **EGG** that spawned the freaky facehuggers in the 1986 sci-fi movie "Aliens" is at rest. **SIGOURNEY WEAVER**, who starred in the movie, presented the 100-pound egg to the National Museum of American History on Wednesday. The curator of the museum's performing arts collection, Dwight Blocker Bowers, said he hopes to have the egg on display within the next year. (AP)



EVAN VUCCI/AP

POLICE BLOTTER

## Whitney Calls for Help

Police were considering Wednesday whether to pursue charges against singer Bobby Brown after his wife, **WHITNEY HOUSTON**, called the police. Houston had a one-inch bruise on her cheek and a cut upper lip when officers responded to the call. The

pop singer told officers that Brown beat her after she returned home Sunday night. He then went to the airport for a flight to Los Angeles, the Fulton County Police report said. No one has been arrested. (AP)



SECRET WEDDINGS

## Stealthily, Gwyneth Weds

**GWYNETH PALTROW** and singer Chris Martin are married, according to the Santa Barbara County clerk-recorder's office. Last week, Paltrow announced she was expecting their first child. County officials confirmed that the couple applied for



a license last Friday, and that appears to be the date they tied the knot, in a short, secret ceremony. Publicist Stephen Huvane said his clients refuse to confirm or deny the report. The actress has been dating Martin, frontman for the British band Coldplay, for the past year. Both have been reticent about publicly discussing their relationship. (AP)



JENNIFER GRAYLOCK/AP

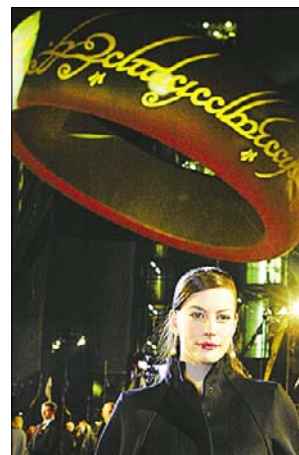
Diana Krall wed Elvis Costello in a secret ceremony at Elton John's castle.

MORE SECRET WEDDINGS

## Diana, Elvis Stealthily Wed

Jazz songstress **DIANA KRALL** has tied the knot with her beau of one year, singer **ELVIS COSTELLO**. The couple married Saturday night in a ceremony at Elton John's castle outside London, the Globe and Mail reported Tuesday. The 150 guests were sworn to secrecy. (AP)

RETURNS | OF KINGS



FABRIZIO BENSCH/REUTERS

**LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!** Liv Tyler arrives for the European premiere of "The Return of the King" in Berlin on Wednesday.

## 5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

Today  
Hi 56  
Lo 32Fri.  
Hi 47  
Lo 28Sat.  
Hi 40  
Lo 30Sun.  
Hi 38  
Lo 33Mon.  
Hi 49  
Lo 35

**UV Index (for solar noon)**  
1 out of 10, minimal

**Air Quality Index (AQI)**  
AQI Today: Not available

**Pollen Index (Yesterday)**  
Reading: Main offender: Not available

**Today**, windy, rain ending early, becoming partly sunny, perhaps an afternoon shower. High 56. Wind west to northwest 20-35 mph. Tonight, mostly clear, blustery, colder. Low 32.

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## The Front Page

VOL. I



RESTAURANT &amp; GRILLE

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## Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

"D.C. SCHOOLS TO CUT 771 JOBS" (Dec. 10). Are they crazy? How can we fund other countries and improve their school programs yet we can't even fund our area and take care of our school systems? I'm convinced that we are taking more steps backward, which will hinder the kids and the future of our country.

—TOYSHIKA EPPS-BROWN  
Silver Spring, Md.

I WAS SO PLEASED TO READ Kendra Hill's letter (Dec. 9) in support of the D.C. smoking ban. It is encouraging to know that there are others in the metro area who are educated on the adverse health effects associated with secondhand smoke.

Conversely, I was dismayed to read Cristian Vidrascu's letter (Dec. 10) against the ban, claiming employees are not "forced to work in an environment that is harmful." What about the DJ whose dream is to be successful on the club scene? Or the trained bartender?

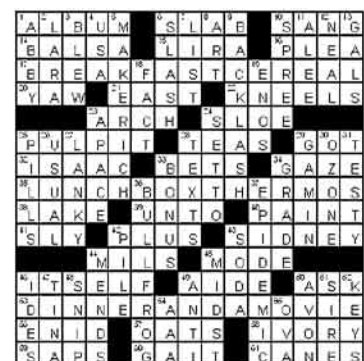
Is Mr. Vidrascu suggesting that these individuals abandon their careers and goals if they want to breathe clean air at work? The smoking ban is a sensible solution and I hope that it passes.

—CARLYE POWERS  
Washington, D.C.

## WRITE TO EXPRESS

Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Submissions may be edited for space. E-mail to [inbox@readexpress.com](mailto:inbox@readexpress.com) or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

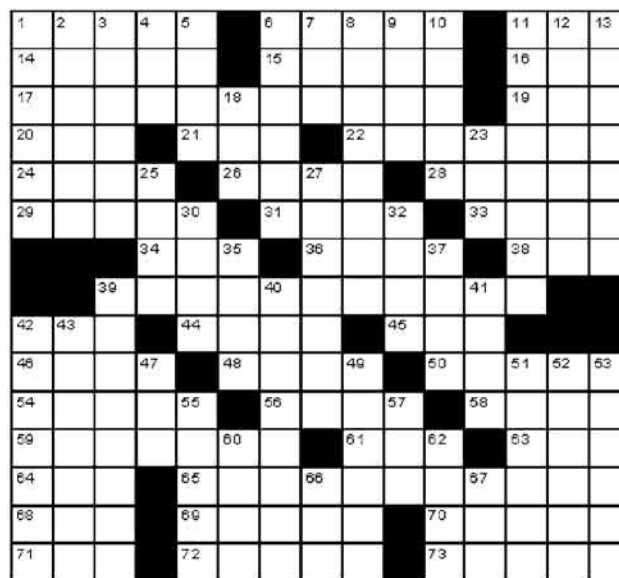
## Yesterday's Solution



## Crossword Puzzle: Gone Bad | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

## ACROSS

- 1 Scottish lord of old  
6 Pillages  
11 Little white lie  
14 Ready for cutting  
15 Insurance matter  
16 With 17-across, cause of mass ruin  
17 See 16-across  
19 OAS member  
20 "Chances \_\_\_\_" (Mathis megahit)  
21 "... \_\_\_\_ iron bars a cage"  
22 Bright at night  
24 Bellow in the library?  
26 Moore of "Indecent Proposal"  
28 Says with a scratchy voice  
29 Frenetic  
31 Catnap  
33 Sudden impulse  
34 Relief  
36 Bankruptcy cause  
38 "\_\_\_\_ on Indolence" (Keats)  
39 Young pain in the neck  
42 Tigger's bouncing buddy  
44 Small duck  
45 Scatter  
46 Work for an orchestra?



- 48 Ivan or Peter  
50 Big name in Chicago  
54 Camel's undoing  
56 On, at or from  
58 It has its ups and downs  
59 Polishing off slowly  
61 Itch  
63 Hall-of-Famer Williams

- 64 Old bronze coin  
65 Ordinary folks  
68 Dictionary section  
69 High-speed transmission  
70 Bubbling  
71 Animal in several of Aesop's fables  
72 Catches one's breath

## DOWN

- 1 Beat  
2 Yippee!  
3 Pay what's due  
4 Mosquito protection  
5 Barbara, who played Jeannie  
6 In a panic  
7 Jungfrau, e.g.  
8 Overturned  
9 "Braveheart" garb  
10 Defame  
11 Result of a court violation  
12 Dull  
13 "How should I know?"  
18 Show sleepiness  
23 Blustery  
25 Bound  
27 Assembly line classics  
30 Go on a rampage  
32 Diminishes  
35 Health concern  
37 Trampled  
39 Grump  
40 Cheesy meals  
41 On vacation  
42 Home to many a penguin  
43 Certain Wall Street trades  
47 Swindler's prey  
49 Palace set  
51 Skin moistener  
52 View blocker  
53 Sings at a high level?  
55 Electrician, at times  
57 Swamp  
60 Sobriquet  
62 Site of Theo. Roosevelt Natl. Park  
66 Set of parts  
67 U.S. crime fighters

## The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



## Horoscope | Stella Wilder

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Someone you meet may not be all he or she seems. You may have to ask a number of questions before you know what's really going on.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Travel light. Avoid those routes that you know are most heavily traveled. You'll want to be very much alone.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — You don't want to jump the gun or take any major step prematurely — at home, at work or on the playing field. Stick to the plan.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — You may have to struggle with another's inflexible stance before you are able to reach any kind of agreement — even a very tenta-

tive one.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Welcome advice or assistance, whether from friend or foe. All information will be of use to you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You will prove once again that you are not the forgetting kind. Someone close to you may have to help you leave a past episode behind you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Avoid riddles and mysteries. Stick to what you know. You'll be at a distinct disadvantage as soon as you begin to play games.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — You should be able to arrive at an important new conclusion regarding home and family.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — You may find yourself mixed up in some kind of distressing business involving a past insult, or even a disappearance of some kind.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — You may have some trouble keeping your opinions to yourself — until you realize that you're also giving away certain secrets as well.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — You'll receive a warning from a superior regarding past behavior that was, indeed, noticed. Surprise, surprise: you're being watched.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Don't make excuses — but don't ignore very real influences that make it impossible for you to do certain things. Be open and honest.

## LIVE ONLINE

## Campaign Cash

From [washingtonpost.com/liveonline](http://washingtonpost.com/liveonline)

Attorney **KENNETH W. STARR**, who represented challengers to the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law, was online Wednesday to discuss the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision to uphold limits on campaign contributions and advertising.

**Some provisions of the law were upheld while others were struck down. Will the law function more or less as intended?**

Today's decision upheld virtually the entirety of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), including its two most important components: the restrictions on the raising and spending of non-federal funds, or so-called "soft money," by national and state political parties, and the restriction on broadcast advertising by corporations and unions that refers to federal candidates within specified periods before federal elections.

**The conventional wisdom seemed to be that this law would almost surely be struck down. What specific assumptions about the justices' likely reasoning turned out to be wrong?**

I'm not sure I agree with you about the conventional wisdom. Many pundits suggested that the challengers had a harder road to hoe with regard to the "soft money" provisions than the "issue advertising" provisions. But with respect to both components of BCRA, both sides had difficult case law to distinguish away.

**From my understanding of this legislation, as an individual, I could purchase an ad to attack a candidate within the 60-day time frame. But if I pool my funds with my wife, I could not. Am I correct?**

Yes. Section 203 of BCRA, as upheld by the court today, applies only to corporations and unions — not to individuals. While Microsoft cannot take out a qualifying "electioneering communication," Bill Gates still can.

## Today on Live Online

11 A.M.: Post staff writer Jason La Canfora discusses the exit of Capitals coach Bruce Cassidy.

express

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